



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sonntag et al.
Appl. No.: 10/697,966
Filed: October 29, 2003
Docket No.: 1996
Conf. No.: 7604
Title: **HOLD DOWN ASSEMBLY, WITH TUBULAR CONTAINER
TRANSPORT APPARATUS AND METHODOLOGY
INCORPORATING THE SAME**

Art Unit: 3721
Examiner:

Action: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**
Date: April 30, 2004

TO: Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

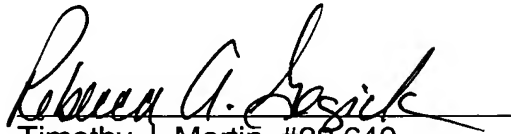
Sir:

For the purpose of meeting Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants note for the Examiner's attention that it is known in the art to use interchangeable collars to vary the size of tube holders so as to accommodate the configuration of the tube to be received therein. In addition, the Examiner's attention is also directed to the background discussion in the application. Portions of the background discussion generally describe a transport apparatus that contains a plurality of tube holders which receivably retain tubes at different stages while they are being filled and sealed and subsequently ejected therefrom.

The Examiner is courteously solicited to enter an expeditious allowance of this application. If any questions remain to be addressed, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney for the Applicants be contacted at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

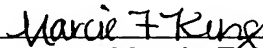
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE (2 pages)** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop DD, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of April, 2004.



Marcie F. King